

**Joint Statement by the Leaders of
Canada, Chile, Mexico, and the
United States**

December 11, 1994

The Americas have been a flourishing of trade, investment and growth built on the strength of our economies. All of our countries have contributed to this success and are determined to ensure that it continues and is expanded through concrete action. The Summit of the Americas is, in fact, indicative of the hemisphere's commitment to take concrete action to achieve higher standards of living. We seek in this hemisphere to expand market opportunities through equitable rules and to eliminate barriers to trade and investment through agreed disciplines at high levels. This approach coupled with policies that address the conditions of labor and protection of the environment will be pillars of a new partnership in the Americas.

Today we are announcing our decision to begin the process by which Chile will accede to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). To this end, trade officials from the NAFTA partners have been directed to undertake the preparations necessary to begin formal negotiations, including focusing on relevant technical procedures and institutional issues. In light of the high priority that we place on this intensive preparatory phase, we have agreed that the first preparatory meeting shall occur before the end of December 1994, and that meetings with Chile will follow early next year. We have also instructed our Ministers responsible for trade to meet and review the work of the officials by no later than May 31, 1995 and to commence full accession negotiations expeditiously thereafter.

In launching this effort, we reaffirm that increased trade, integration and investment on the basis of agreed rules are vital to achieving sustainable growth and the creation of high paying employment opportunities in each country. We believe this action, combined with the other actions relevant to this Summit, is a clear indication of the determination we have to achieve a prosperous Americas.

**The President's News Conference in
Miami**

December 11, 1994

The President. Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, this Summit of the Americas we just concluded represents a watershed in the history of our hemisphere. I want to begin by thanking again the people of Miami and the people of Florida for working so hard to make this a stunning success and for treating these deliberations with such great respect. I would say a special word of appreciation to the people who demonstrated in the Orange Bowl in such large numbers but in a way that spoke up for their deepest convictions for freedom and democracy for Cuba, in a way that was supportive of the other deliberations of this summit.

From my point of view, the mission of this summit was accomplished, first, in our specific commitment to a free trade agreement of the Americas by 2005, which, going with NAFTA, with Chile's coming into the NAFTA partnership, with the recent success of the GATT world trade agreement, puts us on the right road. And for the Americans here in the audience, I would just like to ask you to consider that just in the last 2 weeks the United States has concluded agreements to push for regional free trade in the two fastest growing areas of the world, first at Bogor in Indonesia with the Asian-Pacific economies and now here with the free trade agreement at the Summit of the Americas. These things, along with the implementation of GATT and the expansion of the NAFTA arrangement, will set the agenda for world trade for years to come in ways that benefit ordinary American families, that generate more high-wage jobs in this country and more opportunity in the countries of our trading partners.

Secondly, we reaffirmed our commitment to continuing to work together to strengthen our democracies and to promote sustainable development, to promote education and health care and labor standards and the environment, to fight drugs and international crime and corruption, in other words, to push not only for economic growth, for improvements in the quality of life. This spirit of Miami was embodied in 23 very specific dec-